

A Brief Tree Equity Update

August 7th, 2024

- See attached Excel spreadsheets for raw data. The neater looking ones are those downloaded directly from Headwaters. (These were not conducive to easy sorting because different stats were on different worksheets, so I had to condense them in a new workbook.)
- A statistical analysis will be conducted upon my return.
- Statistics are derived from Headwaters and Tree Equity Score (a project of American Forests).
- I looked at several variables to broaden scope. For instance, poverty rates tend to be high in tracts that *ostensibly* include a large proportion of college students (i.e., tracts of which the University of Michigan owns a sizable part); that large proportion of students would theoretically correlate with a lower percentage of the population being under 5 years old. Obviously this won't always hold true, and overlap between variables should be expected.
- Many of the block groups with low canopy or equity scores have the majority of their lands owned by the University of Michigan or private entities, drastically limiting opportunities for the Dean Fund to invest its money in these areas. These areas are generally excluded. (Those that are not are marked with "**".) Areas that have seen recent Dean Fund investment will be marked with "***".
 - Block group 4036001 (equity score: 78): Roads not at the boundaries of this block group are all privately owned. Few vacancies exist on the included sides of the boundaries, but some exist on the outer sides.
 - Block group 4056002 (equity score: 77): Roads not at the boundaries are mostly privately owned. There is a single vacancy available in this area.
 - Block group 4025002 (equity score: 81): Roads not along boundaries are mostly privately owned.
 - Block group 4042001 (equity score: 84): Tract was recently subject of Dean Fund's investment.
 - University of Michigan controls a substantial sections of Tracts 4022 and 4005.

Recommended Areas

- Block group 4035002. Decently high equity score, listed as moderate priority by American Forests, but low canopy cover (12% vs 40% goal) and high positive heat disparity (12.7 degrees F). Tackling this area could benefit employees by making working conditions more pleasant, business owners by lowering energy costs and attracting business, and the city by reducing the carbon footprint of the area.
 - Notes from February of 2024 on this area:
 - Winewood - 11 vacancies
 - Shelby - 3 removals, 1 vacancy/stump
 - Collingwood* - 5 removals, 6 stumps, 7 vacancies

- Abbott (S Maple to Collingwood) - 5 removals
- Fair* (Collingwood to Burwood) - 2 removals, 5 vacancies, 1 vacancy/stump
- Burwood* (Fair to Thayler) - 16 vacancies, 2 stumps, 3 removals
- Burwood* (Thayler to Thayler) - 6 vacancies, 1 removal
- Burwood* (Thayler to W Liberty) - 5 vacancies, 2 removals
- Thayler (S Maple to Burwood) - 1 removal, 3 vacancies
- W Stadium (east side) - 4 vacancies
- S Maple (W Liberty to Jackson) (east side) - 3 removals, 2 stumps, 7 vacancies
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- *This is one of the boundaries for the block group. Some parts of Collingwood are outside the boundaries of the block group.
- Block group 4056003. Low equity score (80), canopy cover is less than half of goal (24% canopy cover vs 50% goal). This area is scheduled to be planted this year (Research Park in fall, Varsity Drive in spring), but the EDFC could pick up some slack to allow trees to be planted elsewhere, since there are *one hundred twenty-three trees in the Research Park area alone*. There are 69 vacancies around Varsity Drive (35 large, 27 small, 7 medium); vacancies in the Research Park area number 123 (8 medium, 16 small, 99 large). EDFC could plant a handful along S State like they did with S Maple so that an EDFC project could be readily visible at a major thoroughfare of the city. I propose planting the 15 vacancies between Research Park Drive and I-94 *or* the 13 vacancies between Research Park Drive and W Ellsworth. In my opinion, this wouldn't take too many trees from the quota, but Nick and Tiffany would probably like to weigh in on this.
- Block group 4001001. Low canopy cover, high lack of high school diploma, high substantial mortgage cost. 13 vacancies (1 large, 3 medium, 9 small). 23 unplantable sites.

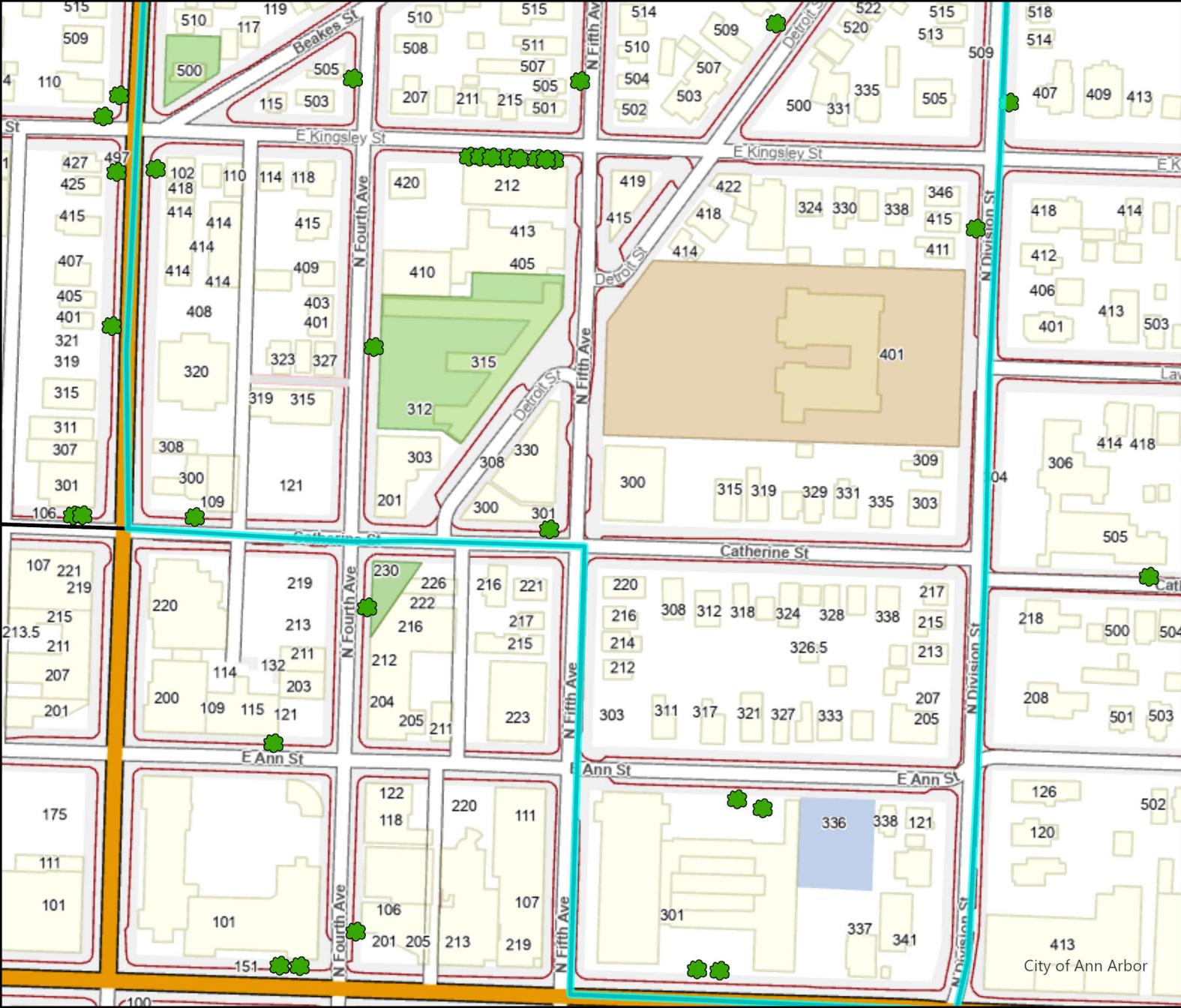
Variable	Tract/Block Group	Value
1. Canopy cover	4001001	9%
	4001002	10%
	4035002	12%
2. Equity score	4027001*	79
	4056003	80
	4045003	82
	4022012*	84
3. High mortgage	4003	86.6%
	4001	83.2%
	4045	48.8%
4. High rent	4004	80.5%
	4005	76%
	4022*	75.5%
	4003	70.7%

5. SNAP recipients	4056**	17.7%
	4042**	15.4%
	4055	10.8%
	4045	10.5%
	4036	9.7%
6. Poverty	4005	69.8%
	4008	67.4%
	4003	62.5%
	4022*	61.1%
	4007	36.7%
7. No high school diploma	4051	6.9%
	4042**	6.3%
	4044	5.8%
	4056**	5.7%
	4001	5.2%
	4005	4.3%
8. Children under 5	4056**	12.2%
	4044	10.8%
	4041	7.4%
	4055	6.7%
	4033	6.7%
9. Unemployment (“did not work”)	4007	27.9%
	4022*	26.3%
	4003	24.8%
	4055	24.5%
10. Rental units	4008	98.4%
	4022*	97.3%
	4005	96%
	4045	87.5%

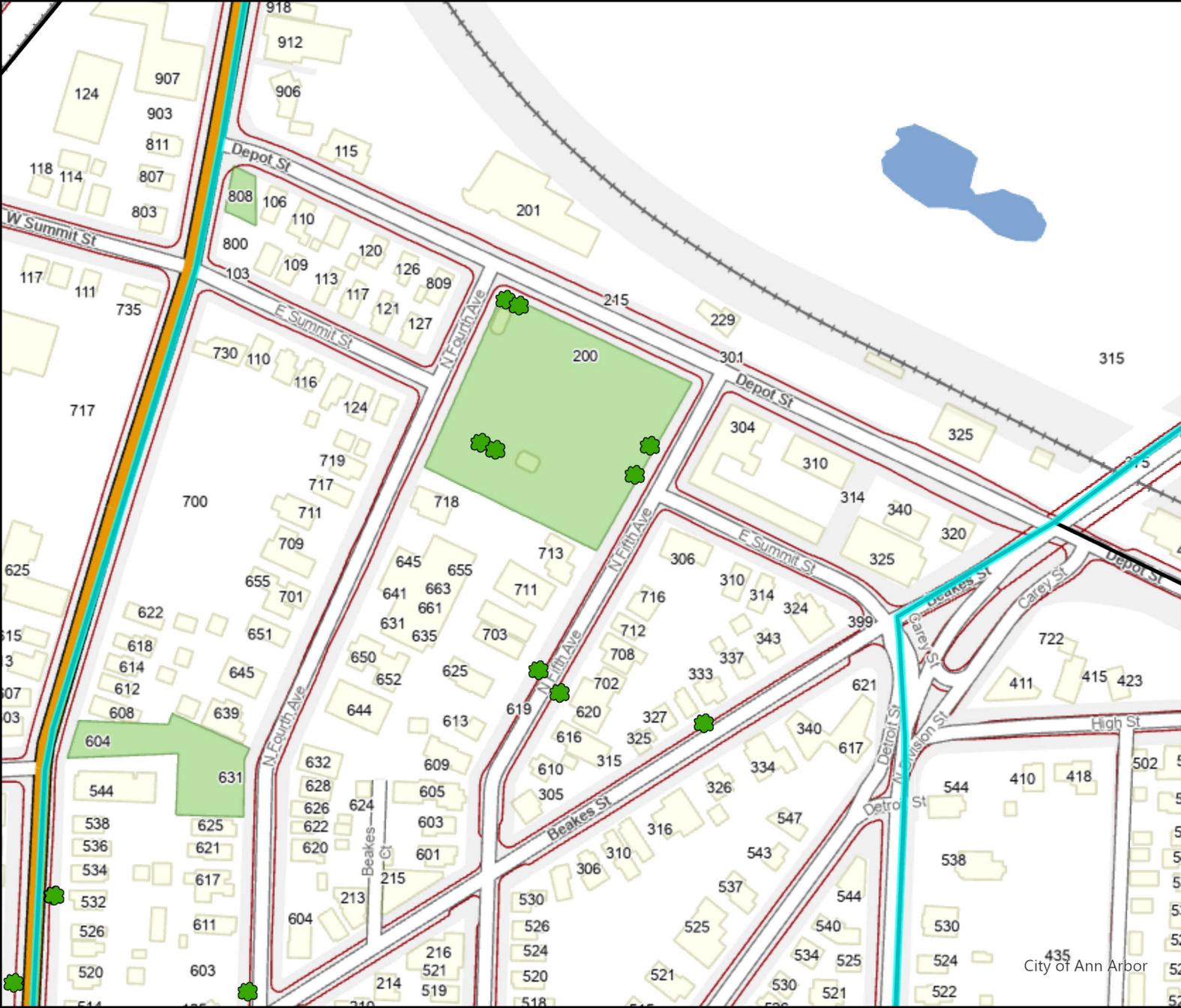
Housing Commission-Adjacent Plantings

- Maps are provided in the subfolder “EDFC Equity Update” (subfolder “Housing”).
- The maps were made earlier in 2024. Some might be outdated due to spring plantings (example: Creekside area).
- Areas
 - Creekside: 2 vacancies, 2 houses with removed trees (not symbolized as unplantable). This area recently had as many as 44 vacancies, but recent plantings almost wiped all of them out.
 - West Arbor: 5 vacancies (no sizes assigned). One of these vacancies does not appear on the map I made, but I included it anyway. It’s on the same street as the others.
 - State Crossing: 2 vacancies (1 large, 1 unassigned), 4 stumps.

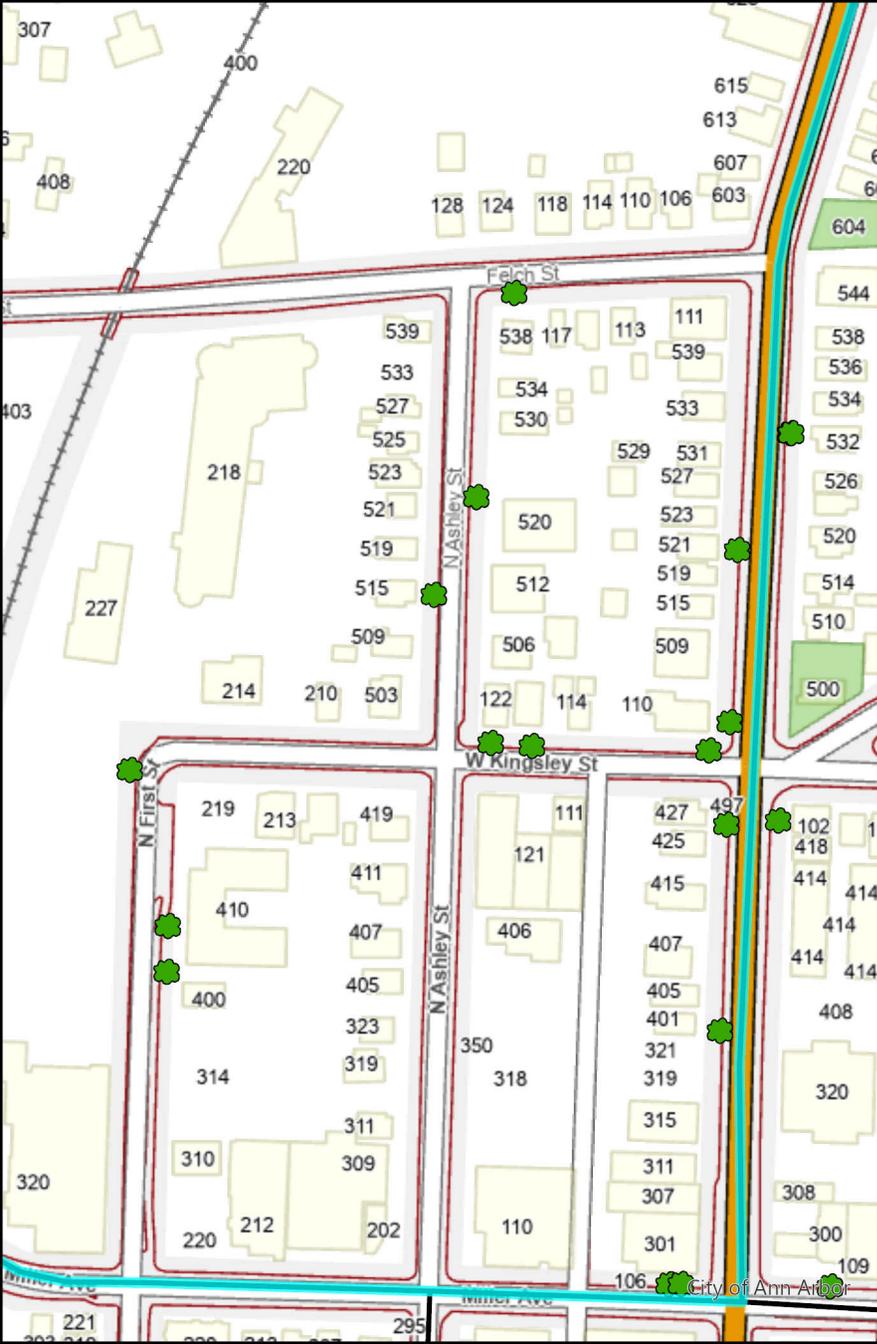
- Lurie Terrace: 7 vacancies (4 small, 2 medium, 1 large). Two sites included on the map are vacant but considered unplantable. Note: There are 6 additional vacancies on Chapin Street.
- Baker Commons: 10 vacancies (6 small, 2 medium, 2 unassigned). There are other housing projects nearby, so additional vacancies were picked up in this map (3 small, 2 medium). There are some stumps in the area where trees could be planted post-removal. Baker Commons suffered a fire earlier this year, resulting in the death of 24-year-old Caliyah Scott-Robinson. The folks there might appreciate having new trees as a gesture of care. If we proceed with this project, we will need to ensure that renovations and restorations are finished.
- W Washington (map labeled "Mulholland"): 5 vacancies (2 small, 1 medium, 2 unassigned) when counting the neighboring non-city housing project.
- Mallett's Creek: 2 vacancies (1 small, 1 medium).



Block Group 4007001: Map 1



Block Group 4007001: Map 1



Block Group 4007002: Map 1



**Block Group
4056003: Research
Park Drive**